

| Question Number | RFP Section Reference | Question or Comment | Response |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 603 | L.5 | Section L.5, Proposal Schedule, of Amendment 0018 states that proposals are due no later than 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on June 23, 2006. However, the Amendment 0018 SF30 states that final revised technical and price proposals are due no later than June 23, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. EST. Please clarify the actual time proposals are due on June 23rd. | Final revised proposals are due no later than June 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. See change page provided with Amendment 19. |
| 604 | | Please confirm black out period for tax season is November 26, 2006 through April 30, 2007. | Reference Question #293 which states "IRS' tax season is November 26, 2004 through April 30, 2005. Critical periods for FMS and BPD are provided in Section C.3.2.1; no other critical periods are known at this time." The dates provided in Question #293 apply to all years, therefore, November 26, 2006 through April 30, 2007 apply to the current proposed transition timeframe. Also reference revised Question 418, provided in Amendment 18, which offers guidance to which transition activities present less risk during the IRS tax season. |
| 605 | | Please confirm transition is to start October 1, 2006 through June 30th, 2007. | Reference revised Question #573, provided in Amendment 18, which states "For EVALUATION PURPOSES only and to complete their proposed transition plan, the Offerors shall assume the transition will begin on October 1, 2006 and end no later than June 30, 2007, which would be a nine-month transition period. All transition activities, from site survey through acceptance testing must be conducted within the nine-month timeframe." |
| 606 | | In Q&A #418, the Government indicates that "Given the short period for transition, vendors should propose activities that are preparatory and represent low risk to current services during blackout periods. Vendors should thus propose activities that will not disturb current services during blackout periods, and which will speed site transition after the blackout period has passed..." The Government further clarifies that any cut over of TCE services during the blackout period from January 01, 2007 - April 30, 2007 will be viewed as moderate, high, or unacceptable risk. | |
| 606 cont. | | However, Q&A #573 indicates the Government "views a high concentration of transition sites in a short time frame to present high risk and will review more favorably those transitions plans which tend to more evenly spread site transitions across the allocated transition period..." | |
| 606 cont. | | We understand that transition activities during the blackout period are rated at as moderate, high or unacceptable risk for the IRS. Removing the blackout period from transition scheduling consideration in order to achieve a lower risk rating leaves only five months (October - December 2006, May - June 2007) available for transition. According to Don Chauncey's cover letter, all acceptance testing must be completed by June 30, 2007, which would mean that all site cutovers must be completed by May 30, 2007. This reduces the time available for a low risk transition, not excluding days lost due to Federal Holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, Martin Luther, Memorial Day), down to four months. | |

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 606 cont. | | Assuming that site surveys and installation of local access require at least one month, this reduces the time available for a low risk approach to only three months, November, December and May. For the IRS, the contractor would need to transition all 725 sites in a three month period, or 60 sites per week. | That is not a correct assumption. Please reference revised Question #418, which provides guidance on activities during the IRS black-out period. This includes the ability to transition Category 3 sites during the months of December through April, with the restrictions specified in revised Question #418. Please note that four of the five Federal Holidays you list as "days lost" are during the blackout period and, therefore, would not impact the time available for transition. |
| 607 | | Will the Government confirm that 60 sites per week is an acceptable low risk? Also, please describe given these limitations, what it would take to achieve a low risk rating? | The Government does not have a predetermined number that it considers to be acceptable and evaluates all transition plans solely based on the criteria provided in RFP Section M. The Government will base that assessment on the activities discussed in your proposal. Risk mitigation, active planning, and a proactive management approach to transition would also impact the Government's assessment of what is considered acceptable for transition. |
| 608 | E.2.5 | Q&A #573 (Revised) and Don Chauncey's letter dated June 15, 2006 indicate that all transition activities, from site survey through acceptance testing must be conducted within the nine-month timeframe. TCE RFP Section E.2.5, Performance Testing, describes acceptance testing as occurring over a 30 day period. Will the Government please confirm that the last site cutover from TCS to TCE must occur by May 30, 2007 in order to comply with the June 30 2007 deadline? | That is a correct assumption. |
| 609 | E.2.5.1 | In Section E.2.5.1, Delay of Start of Acceptance Testing Period, the Government reserves the right to delay the start of performance testing, but such delay shall not exceed thirty (30) calendar days. Given that the IRS moratorium ends on April 30, 2007 and all acceptance testing must be completed by June 30, 2007, will the Government please confirm that they will not Delay the Start of Acceptance Testing. | It is in the Government's best interest to complete the transition as expeditiously as possible. As referenced in RFP Section F.1.2 (FAR 52.242-17), if the Government does delay the Start of Acceptance Testing, the TCE Contractor will not be held to the transition SLAs. The Government does not anticipate causing any delays to the Start of Acceptance Testing; therefore, your transition plan should not anticipate Government delay. |
| 610 | | Does the October 1st, 2006 start date include any/all pilot site activities, or are they allowed to start prior to October 1st, 2006? | Reference revised Question #573 which states, "All transition activities, from site survey through acceptance testing must be conducted within the nine-month timeframe." This also includes any pilot activities. |